

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and add new claim 6 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of circumferential grooves extending in a tire circumferential direction in a tread surface having a width and a circumferential center;

a plurality of lateral grooves extending from the circumferential grooves away from the circumferential center of the tread surface, the lateral grooves being open at their distal ends from the circumferential center of the tread surface and provided intermittently in the tire circumferential direction; and

line portions provided in a wall face of the circumferential grooves, the line portions being composed of a plurality of ridges or recesses that are inclined from 10° to 35°less than 45° with respect to the tire circumferential direction;

wherein water flows in the circumferential grooves along the line portions to form a vortex flow, and is discharged from the circumferential grooves, and

wherein the line portions are provided in a range of not less than 50% of the wall face of the circumferential grooves in a cross section of the ~~longitudinal~~circumferential grooves orthogonal to the groove longitudinal direction.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a height of the line portions is not smaller than 0.3 mm and is not more than 20% of each of a width and depth of the circumferential grooves.

4. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a pitch interval of the line portions is 1.5 to 8.0 mm.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of circumferential grooves extending in a tire circumferential direction in a tread surface having a width and a circumferential center;

a plurality of lateral grooves extending from the circumferential grooves away from the circumferential center of the tread surface, the lateral grooves being open at their distal ends from the circumferential center of the tread surface and provided intermittently in the tire circumferential direction; and

vortex creating means provided in a wall face of the circumferential grooves, for creating a vortex flow of water that enters the circumferential grooves;

wherein the vortex creating means are provided in a range of not less than 50% of the wall face of the circumferential grooves in a cross section of the circumferential grooves orthogonal to the groove longitudinal direction.